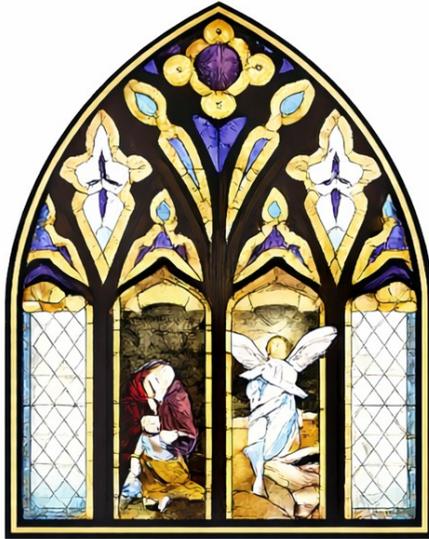


“*Hosanna*”

“BLESSED IS HE
WHO COMES IN
THE NAME OF
THE LORD!”

JOHN 12:13





First Presbyterian Church

— BELTON —

• EST. 1860 •

Rev. Kathy Vineyard

Pastor

Order of Worship

March 29, 2026



Gathering and Announcements *Ride On King Jesus*

Prelude *Palms of Glory* — by Roy E. Nolte

Jessye Whitis, pianist, Carol Tyson, organist

***Call to worship**

“Hosanna!” They shouted. “Save us!”

“Hosanna!” We’re shouting. “Save us!”

Savior, ride into our hearts again,

wash us with excitement and hope,

give us a reason to praise

and to shout again, “Hosanna! Hosanna!”

***Opening Hymn # 196** *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Liturgy of the Palms

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

This morning begins the Great Week of the Christian Year.

During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection.

With Christians throughout the world, we come together this week to call to mind, and to express in word and action, the center of the Easter mystery: our Lord's Passover from death to life. Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City to complete his work as Messiah: to suffer, to die and to rise to new life.

Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross, so that, sharing his sufferings, we may be united with him in his risen life.

(All may hold up their palms for this blessing)

Sovereign God,
we thank you for these branches of palm. By your blessing may they be for us signs of the victory of your Son. May we who carry them in his name ever hail him as our Messiah, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Merciful God,
as we enter this holy week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city not made with hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. **Amen.**

(All may bring their palms to the communion table)

God of all,
you gave your only-begotten Son to take the form of a servant, and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem *Let the Rocks Cry Out* – by Lloyd Larson

Jessye Whitis, pianist

Prayer for illumination

Holy Spirit, share with us your wisdom; gift us with your hope; sustain us with your truth. Be in our hearing and our thinking, that through the words of Scripture we might know your call on our lives. Amen.

Scripture readings Psalm 118: 1–2, 19–29; Matthew 26: 14–28

Sermon *Growing in Grace*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H..R.

***Affirmation of faith** (from Philippians 2:5-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
**who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,**
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in
human likeness.

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself and
became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.**

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
**and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Hymn # 198 *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

***Call for the offering**

You never know what God needs. You never know what
God can use. Trusting that what you have is just what God
needs, commit your offerings to the Lord. Whether they are
given physically or online, of your time, your talent, your
treasure, whether they are extraordinary or humble, your
gifts build up the body of Christ in the world.

Offertory *Behold the Lamb* — by Dottie Rambo

Jessye Whitis, pianist; Carol Tyson, organist

Doxology # 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Come

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of grace, you amaze us with your grace and the depths of your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless the energy, intelligence, imagination and love we put into furthering Christ's ministry among your people. Amen

Prayers of the people

Pray for Christian communities everywhere, following the way of the cross this week: that the passion of Christ may sustain our faith and enliven our witness to the world, we pray to you, Living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the pastors, teachers, evangelists and prophets of the church: that the wisdom of Christ may keep them grounded in the gospel, we pray to you, Living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world, and for the peace of Jerusalem: that the kingdom of Christ may come with true peace and the forgiveness of our enemies, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the endangered earth, where human carelessness and waste threaten the environment: that the Spirit of Christ may teach us how to care for the earth, and revive our delight in creation, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the hungry, the homeless and the outcasts of the world: that the love of Christ may teach us hospitality, hope, and care for the least of our sisters and brothers, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For people whose lives are limited by sickness, grief, or fear: that the compassion of Christ may come to them with comfort and courage, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who bear the weight of others' troubles: that the easy yoke of Christ may lighten their burdens and strengthen them for service, we pray to you Living God.

Lord, hear our Prayer.

For people offering their lives in loving service: that the blessing of Christ may come to them, and their gifts be received and remembered with joy, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who deny their faith or betray their friends, for all who repent of their sins, and for ourselves as we turn and ask for mercy: that the forgiveness of Christ may come with healing and love, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For people preparing to die: that the light of Christ may shine on them both now and in the day of resurrection, we pray to you, Living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Living God, you listen when your people cry out to you, Hearing our prayers and forgiving our sins: Hear us now, forgive us, And send us on in newness of life, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, we offer the prayer that Jesus himself taught us saying "**Our Father...**"

***Hymn # 197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

Charge and benediction

Today we have hailed you as our champion.

Tomorrow distractions will overtake us, and our enthusiasm may fade.

Help us keep our eyes on you this week:

on Monday, when you clear the temple of greed and deceit;

on Tuesday, when you challenge our comfort and ease;

on Wednesday, the last day before the world tilts;

on Thursday, when you wash your disciples' feet, and promise us a new covenant of your own body and blood, and are betrayed and arrested while you pray;

on Friday, when you are examined, found guilty, and executed and plead with your last breath for our forgiveness;

on Saturday, when you lie dead in the tomb, and it seems all is lost.

The story is ancient, but the promises are fresh. So keep our eyes on you this week, and bring us back together next Sunday, when we will see what God has done.

And wherever you go, may you be kept in the love of God, the mercy of Christ, and the power of the Spirit, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Postlude *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Jessye Whitis, pianist

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2026 Portions of Liturgy written by Carol Prickett.

© The Liturgy of the Palms and Prayers of the People from the Anglican Church of Australia.